

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 05559 291730Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 OES-06 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 L-03 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /037 W
-----291734Z 029428 /43

O R 291714Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6922
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
CINC USAF RAMSTEIN
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 05559

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR PFOR WB UK FR US UR
SUBJECT: CORRIDOR CLEARANCE FOR GOODYEAR AIRSHIP

REFS: (A) BONN 5373 DTG 281231Z MAR 77;
(B) USBER 782 DTG 181630Z MAR 77 NOTAL;
(C) BONN 4651 DTG 161227Z MAR 77 NOTAL;
(D) BONN 3965 DTG 041713Z MAR 77 NOTAL

1. THE BRITISH DCM, JULIAN BULLARD, RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE PROPOSED FLIGHT TO BERLIN OF THE GOODYEAR AIRSHIP DURING A DISCUSSION WITH THE US DCM TODAY. BULLARD SAID FCO DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY HIBBERT, WHO WAS IN BONN OVER THE WEEKEND, HAD BROUGHT UP THE MATTER IN HIS DISCUSSION OF BERLIN MATTERS WITH UK OFFICIALS HERE. ACCORDING TO BULLARD, LONDON'S OPPOSITION TO THE FLIGHT IS QUITE STRONG; THE BRITISH BELIEVE THAT INNOVATIVE MEASURES SUCH AS THE PROPOSED FLIGHT SHOULD NOT BE UNDERTAKEN AT
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PAGE 02 BONN 05559 291730Z

A TIME WHEN WE ARE TRYING TO KEEP BERLIN ISSUES QUIET.

2. ASKED ABOUT THE US POSITION, THE DCM RESPONDED THAT WE WERE AWAITING GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT AS TO WHETHER WE WOULD WISH TO REOPEN THE ISSUE WITH LONDON. HE NOTED THAT ONE OF THE PROBLEMS, NOW THAT GOODYEAR HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE BY THE

THREE ALLIED CAA'S, WAS THAT CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY HAD BEEN ENGENDERED IN THE BERLIN PRESS. TO CANCEL THE FLIGHT WHEN ALL SEEMED TO AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE LEGAL WOULD RAISE AWKWARD QUESTIONS.

3. BULLARD SAID HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH THAT ARGUMENT BUT SIMPLY WANTED TO PASS ON THE FACT THAT LONDON'S POSITION, AS EXPLAINED BY HIBBERT, REMAINED THAT THE UK WAS "STRONGLY OPPOSED" TO THE FLIGHT.

4. COMMENT: TIMING OF THE PROPOSED FLIGHT MAKES IT DESIRABLE THAT WE MOVE QUICKLY, EITHER TO NOTIFY GOODYEAR OF THE CANCELLATION, IF WE CHOOSE NOT TO CONTEST THE BRITISH POSITION, OR ELSE TO REOPEN THE ISSUE WITH THE UK. OUR READING OF BULLARD'S PRESENTATION IS THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO OVERCOME HIBBERT'S OPPOSITION AND THAT IN ALL LIKELIHOOD THE CLOCK WOULD RUN OUT IN THE PROCESS OF TRYING. MEANWHILE, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT GOODYEAR IS CONTINUING WITH ITS PREPARATIONS FOR THE FLIGHT AND WAITING EVEN LONGER TO CALL IF OFF WOULD ONLY ADD TO THE EVENTUAL EMBARRASSMENT. WHILE WE CONTINUE TO FEEL THAT THE FLIGHT IS LEGALLY ACCEPTABLE, WE QUESTION WHETHER THE ARGUMENTS FOR PROCEEDING ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY THE AMOUNT OF POLITICAL CAPITAL THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR BRINGING THE BRITISH AROUND.

5. ACTION REQUESTED. URGENT GUIDANCE.
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PAGE 03 BONN 05559 291730Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT, BERLIN AIR CORRIDORS, FLIGHT CLEARANCES, BERLIN QUADRIpartite MATTERS, RADIO EQUIPMENT, TEST FACILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN05559
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770107-0687
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770313/aaaaakqy.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bd4fa1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Retention: 0
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TAGS: EAIR, PFOR, WB, UK, FR, US, UR
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